

## **Attachment 4: Project Description**

### **STPUD Groundwater Management Plan Revision/Update**

The primary goal of the proposed project, STPUD Groundwater Management Plan Revision/Update, is to revise/update the current groundwater management plan to bring it into compliance with all pertinent codes and regulations.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District adopted the current Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) in 2000. Changes to California Water Code 10750 et al, occurred after the original adoption, most specifically the changes that resulted from SB 1938 and AB 3030. Although the current GWMP meets earlier versions of CWC Section 10750 et al, STPUD is requesting funding from the LGA 2012 grant for a revision of the plan to include the components of SB 1938 and AB 3030, especially the development of groundwater management objectives in the following areas:

- Identification and management of wellhead protection areas and recharge areas.
- Regulation of the migration of contaminated groundwater.
- The administration of a well abandonment and well destruction program.
- Mitigation of conditions of overdraft.
- Replenishment of groundwater extracted by water producers.
- Monitoring of groundwater levels and storage.
- Facilitating conjunctive use operations.
- Identification of well construction policies.
- The construction and operation by the local agency of groundwater contamination cleanup, recharge, storage, conservation, water recycling, and extraction projects.
- The development of relationships with state and federal regulatory agencies.
- The review of land use plans and coordination with land use planning agencies to assess activities which create a reasonable risk of groundwater contamination.

The development of groundwater management objectives in the STPUD GWMP will be useful in identifying future implementation projects for each objective. An example is the administration of a well abandonment and well destruction program. The current plan identifies wellhead protection, but does not identify the future objectives for well abandonment and well destruction. Although STPUD has a 10 year capital planning process that identifies necessary groundwater management projects, a process of priority setting for project implementation in the categories above would be a useful tool in this process. A revised GWMP could serve to set these priorities under established management objectives, as well as earmark the limited funds available for implementation of projects. The future implementation of the revised GWMP would be a combination of staff time to perform outreach, attend pertinent groundwater or watershed meetings with appropriate agencies, and monitor groundwater data as well as the necessary funding to implement any projects identified as part of the development of management objectives. Funding would be obtained from a variety of sources, including STPUD capital improvement funds, grants and loans, tax revenue or revenue from current ratepayers.

STPUD also serves as the lead agency in the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan efforts. The revision of the GWMP would be implemented in tandem with the current plans to revise

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the Tahoe Sierra IRWM and would result in more coordinated groundwater management efforts. The Tahoe Sierra IRWM was originally adopted by the STPUD Board of Directors in 2006, and then on July 19, 2007 a revision of the plan was re-adopted. The Groundwater Management Plan Revision/Update proposed by STPUD is consistent with the IRWM plan, specifically Section C: Objectives, Groundwater Management (page 18) and Section D: Water Management Strategies, Groundwater Management (pages 23, 24).

In addition to acting as the lead agency in the Tahoe Sierra IRWM, STPUD also maintains collaborative efforts with other local public agencies with regard to the management of the affected groundwater basin, including Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California Department of Public Health, and many others. STPUD will utilize these collaborations to develop a diversified stakeholder group. In addition to the established outreach with these agencies, the revision of the GWMP would entail scheduled meetings with stakeholders (to solicit input, comments, protests, etc.,) including the federal and state agencies, partner agencies in the Tahoe Sierra IRWMP, and other interested agencies or individuals. In order to develop the broadest stakeholder base possible, outreach efforts will include: STPUD quarterly newsletters to customers, board meeting agenda and notices, website information ([www.stpud.us](http://www.stpud.us)), and local newspapers and other media.